World Bank loans to North-Eastern States

*374. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases where the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have made new commitments during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) how many of them belong to the North-Eastern States, alongwith the name of the States; and

(c) the percentage of the amount credited in the rural areas over their total amount of lending?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) During the FY 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 World Bank and Asian Development Bank have made new commitments for 45 projects in India, out of which five projects have been approved for Assam and three are Central Sector projects covering all the States including North Eastern States.

(c) The rural component in every project is different depending upon the nature and size of the project, and varies over the implementation period of each project.

Independent agency to prevent adulteration of petroleum products

*375. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to hand over the entire work of detection and prevention of fuel adulteration to an independent agency *i.e.* Bureau of Indian Standard, Central Pollution Control Board etc. independent of the oil PSUs, and the Ministry in view of the rampant adulteration in motor fuel and lubricants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to hand over the entire work of detection and prevention of fuel adulteration to an independent agency. However, under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the

Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration.

The action taken by the Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in containing the menace of adulteration include the following:—

(i) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(ii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

(iii) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.

(v) IT solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.

(vi) Branding of Reatail Outlellts and third party certificaiton of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.

(vii) Goverment have taken up this matter with all the State Governments /Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/surprise checks to ensure that adulteration related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under thier jurisdictions so as to indentify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the legal framework.

(viii) A pilot project has been approved for strengthening the distribution network of PDS Kersene with a view to working towards ensuring that this product is made available to the targeted consumers and is not diverted for adulteration.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.